Organised by the School of Professional Education and Executive Development (SPEED) of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), the Best Innovation Awards (BIA) 2014 invited Associate Degree and Higher Diploma students in Hong Kong to compete and apply their creativity in real-world scenarios. Student contestants for the Awards were given the opportunity not only to combine their knowledge with innovative thinking but also hone their writing and presentation skills.

Innovative Ideas That Matter

“We as teachers should learn more from the present-day students, who are digital natives when applying multi-media technology,” said Dr. Jack Lo, Director of PolyU SPEED. He stressed that besides the proficiency in using digital tools, students also need to learn how to put innovative concepts into practice and create products that sell. “Ultimately, it is the unconventional ideas and ‘out-of-the-box’ thinking that matter most. It is exactly the mission of organising the BIA. We hope to encourage students to become practical dreamers,” said Dr. Lo.

The team “FLYS” from the Community College of City University eventually took home the Gold award, while the team “UTOPIA” from the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Tsing Yi) and the team “LEGEND” from the Hong Kong Community College of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University received the Silver and Bronze awards respectively.

“The judges were impressed by the winning team’s delivery of a comprehensive and professional presentation,” said Dr. Lo. “The selections of multi-media platforms were fully integrated and well thought-out, with solid research effort that laid the foundation for the overall strategic development. Most importantly, their ideas were practical.”

Bigger Than the Sum of All its Parts

Students also learn how to foster team spirit during their preparation for the BIA entries in order to realise the principle of “one for all, all for one,” said Dr. Lo. “In today’s sophisticated corporate structure, top managers expect that their younger employees not only possess good interpersonal communication skills, positive work attitude and passion, but they should also understand the essence of teamwork and effectively collaborate with different groups of people both internally and externally.”

By scrutinising the BIA entries, Dr. Lo observed that the performances of some of the sub-degree students are definitely comparable with those studying University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded Bachelor’s degree programmes. “The mission of PolyU SPEED is to offer quality top-up degree programmes. We hope to enhance the self-confidence of sub-degree students by providing them with an alternative path to further education.”

For PolyU SPEED BIA 2014 competition results, please visit www.speed-polyu.edu.hk/bia2014
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